

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 26, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Producers Worked Extended Hours to Take Advantage of Nearly Ideal Planting Conditions
Crop Conditions Improved with Warmer Weather and Light Rain**

FIELD CROPS

Ag producers worked extended hours to take advantage of nearly ideal planting conditions. Field crops and vegetables remained about two to three weeks behind normal. Generally across the state, there were no reports of crop damage or unusual situations. Moderate temperatures and light rain benefitted grain producers, but left hay producers with difficult choices as first cutting alfalfa matured. Wheat continued to head with some evidence of frost damage on the earliest seeded areas. In the eastern part of the state, cooler temperatures delayed growth and development of crops.

LIVESTOCK

Rain showers and warm temperatures over the weekend improved pasture and hay condition. In western Washington, dairymen and livestock producers continued to harvest green chop from rapidly growing forage fields. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, ranchers looked for places to keep their cattle as pastures began to run out of grass. Range and pasture conditions were 0% very poor, 12% poor, 70% fair and 18% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Commercial dahlia growers finished planting tubers for summer blooms. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent growth and initial fruit set. Commercial strawberry growers reported late bloom on the Hood variety due to cold temperatures. In Grant County, dry bean and corn planting continued, processed carrot planting finished, and lima bean planting began. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported excellent sales of spring bedding plants.

This Week	Last Week
6.4	6.5

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	100	97	100	100
Spring Wheat Emerged	95	91	98	97
Spring Wheat Headed	6	5	1	1
Winter Wheat Headed	25	6	31	30
Barley Planted	100	99	100	100
Barley Emerged	97	92	96	97
Potatoes Emerged	70	67	87	80
Corn Planted	80	70	95	95
Corn Emerged	12	10	40	34
Dry Peas Planted	100	86	100	100
Dry Edible Beans	39	30	37	33
Proc. Green Peas	90	68	99	60
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	30	17	31	15

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	14	85	0
Subsoil	0	19	80	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	10	35	55	0
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	9	33	47	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	2	67	30	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Barley Dryland	0	2	62	36	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Potatoes	0	0	10	90	0
Corn	0	0	0	50	50
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Like waves upon the ocean, rills of soil swept across newly planted fields of corn. Ag producers worked extended hours to take advantage of nearly ideal planting conditions. Golden Jubilee, Early Jubilee and Chase continued to be the favored sweet corn varieties for commercial production. Commercial dahlia growers finished planting tubers for summer blooms. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent growth and initial fruit set. Christmas tree growers continued applications of fungicides and insecticides. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported excellent sales of spring bedding plants. Dairymen and livestock producers continued to harvest "green chop" from rapidly growing forage fields.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions improved with warmer

weather and light rain. Field crops and vegetables remained about 2 to 3 weeks behind normal. No report of crop damage due to weather conditions.

Thurston: A week of dry weather and mild temperatures provided a real bonanza to ag producers throughout the county. Turfgrass growers sprayed herbicides in recently planted fields to eliminate broad leafed weeds. Christmas tree growers continued applications of fungicides and insecticides on Douglas fir plantations. Commercial strawberry growers reported late bloom on the Hood variety due to cold temperatures. Dairy producers continued forage harvest. Rural landowners were complaining about invasive scotch broom and requested information on control.

CENTRAL

Douglas/Chelan: Cool windy conditions continued. Moisture levels and condition of the winter wheat were below normal. Last year's drought continued to play a role in the condition of this year's crop.

Grant: Dry bean, field corn and sweet corn planting continued. Processed carrot planting was completed. Lima bean planting began. Wool harvest was completed.

Okanogan/Ferry: Cattle were starting to go out to summer pastures. Condition of pastures were fair to good depending

upon elevation. More information will be known about the severity of the recent freeze that hit most of the county's fruit crops after the June-drop.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal, with .13 of an inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Another week of moderate temperatures and a couple of light rains made for happy grain growers, but the unsettled nature of the weather pattern left hay producers with difficult choices, as the first cutting of alfalfa began to reach or exceed maturity. Wheat continued to head out in the southern portions of the county with some evidence of frost damage on the earliest seeded areas.

Adams (2nd Report): Precipitation at the beginning of the week improved surface soil moisture and maintained sub-soil moisture. Winter wheat continued to be in mostly fair condition, and spring cereals remained in fair condition.

Asotin/Garfield: A few showers went through the area during the week, but quantities were limited. Rain is needed soon for continued crop development. Crops showed signs of stress even with the cool temperatures. Ranchers looked for places to keep their cattle as pastures began to run out of grass.

Lincoln: The county received moisture but warm weather is needed to boost the spring crops which started to emerge. Winter wheat looked good. Hopefully there will be no damage from the frost and cold received the first part of May.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Precipitation helped soil moisture conditions for the week. Winter wheat and spring cereals

remained in fair condition.

Stevens: Rain showers and warm temperatures over the weekend improved pasture and hay conditions.

Walla Walla: Moisture was badly needed for peas and cereal. Dry areas and gray colored, water stressed cereals that were visible. Cool temperatures lately have been very helpful for our moisture stressed crops. The water flow in the Walla Walla River was generally above the 49 median daily flow of 49 years of record.

Whitman: Timely rains hit the county mid-week and the western part of the county received much needed moisture. Totals ranged from .5 to .25 inches with passing storms which continued to provide additional amounts. Warmer temperatures encouraged growth in crops and forage.

Whitman (2nd Report): Unseasonably cold conditions prevailed for much of the week, and the cool conditions continued to delay growth and development of crops. Rainfall across much of the county was welcomed during the week, but crops were in need of warmer temperatures. There was concern among farmers that the weather would abruptly change from cool to hot conditions without adequate crop development, which would negatively impact yield potentials.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

May 28, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	39	70	54	-1	34	2	0	0	0.45	-0.04	4	31.15	-0.16	99	143
Everett	43	67	55	-2	35	-2	0	0	0.20	-0.34	4	29.33	-2.09	93	149
Hoquiam	40	66	54	-1	30	-2	0	0	0.33	-0.33	4	61.38	-1.21	98	159
Kelso	39	73	57	1	47	7	4	2	0.20	-0.33	2	38.89	-2.68	94	141
Olympia	35	73	56	2	41	10	5	5	0.27	-0.15	4	55.94	9.39	120	152
Seattle-Tacoma	46	67	56	-1	46	1	0	0	0.35	0.00	4	35.67	2.14	106	136
Shelton	37	71	56	-2	41	-6	2	-3	0.11	-0.38	2	67.77	7.16	112	148
Tacoma	39	70	57	1	52	7	6	6	0.27	-0.15	4	27.94	-8.07	78	115
Vancouver	42	75	58	3	57	14	9	6	0.32	-0.17	3	34.81	-2.46	93	139
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	36	72	55	-3	36	-10	1	-5	0.40	0.26	3	6.62	-1.03	87	77
Omak	41	75	56	0	46	3	0	-5	0.44	0.07	5	8.34	-3.40	71	66
Stampede Pass	33	59	43	1	1	1	0	0	1.09	0.32	4	71.62	-2.58	97	148
Wenatchee	43	74	59	-2	64	-9	6	-10	0.13	-0.01	3	4.87	-2.10	70	54
Yakima AP	37	76	58	-1	57	-3	6	-4	0.52	0.38	1	6.06	-0.72	89	54
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	69	54	-2	31	-9	0	-5	0.84	0.37	4	13.89	-3.55	80	76
Deer Park	38	72	52	-5	19	-21	0	-4	0.42	0.07	4	19.55	4.11	127	110
Spokane AP	37	73	53	-4	28	-11	1	-3	0.52	0.17	5	12.04	-1.55	89	100
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	41	78	59	-3	68	-15	10	-11	0.07	-0.07	3	4.75	-1.33	78	55
Moses Lake	37	78	58	-4	58	-25	4	-17	0.03	-0.11	1	4.78	-1.30	79	57
Quincy	44	74	58	-4	54	-17	3	-12	0.01	-0.13	1	5.69	-0.94	86	53
Ritzville	40	78	54	-2	34	-8	3	-2	0.20	-0.01	2	8.95	-0.75	92	70
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	46	78	61	-5	79	-26	11	-25	0.00	-0.08	0	4.85	-0.80	86	44
Pasco	39	80	60	-3	74	-16	8	-18	0.04	-0.10	1	4.23	-2.24	65	49
Pullman	39	70	52	-3	20	-10	0	0	0.14	-0.21	3	15.56	-2.20	88	99
Walla Walla AP	43	78	58	-3	61	-15	8	-9	0.41	0.06	2	12.80	-4.06	76	93
Whitman Mission	37	80	58	-2	57	-7	7	-5	0.29	0.04	4	10.69	-1.00	91	87
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	36	73	52	-5	29	-20	4	-2	1.15	0.66	5	17.44	-3.97	81	107
Lewiston ID	41	81	58	-3	60	-10	15	0	0.10	-0.20	4	8.19	-1.29	86	87

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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